



## WEB RELEASE

### THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base Year 2013) – AUGUST 2019 DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

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#### 1. Introduction

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) is the authorized agency to compile Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI). The base year used for compilation of CCPI from June 2011 to December 2016 was the year 2006/07. Following internationally accepted guidelines, it has been arranged to revise the base year from 2006/07=100 to 2013=100 in order to accommodate the changing expenditure patterns and in cooperate changes of goods & services available in the market. Accordingly, with respect to the new base, CCPI (Base 2013=100) will be released monthly commencing from January 2017 on the last working day of each month. It is emphasized that index numbers or inflation figures compiled under different base years cannot be compared.

The CCPI is compiled to indicate average changes in the prices of goods and services purchased by households in urban areas of Colombo district. Prices for items in the Colombo Consumer Price Index are collected from 14 selected centers located in Colombo namely Pettah, Maradana, Wellawatta, Dematagoda, Grandpass, Borella, Kirulapone, Dehiwala, Mt.Lavinia, Kotte, Nugegoda, Kolonnawa, Rathmalana, and Narahenpita and Rathmalana dedicated economic centers. Prices are collected weekly from the outlets located within each of the above market areas including Lak Sathosa and a supermarket. The consumer basket includes 392 items, which represent the typical urban household consumption expenditure. The CPI weights are derived from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2012/13.

For more details on the revision of base year, please click here: [Technical Note on Base Year Revision](#)

**Table 1- Monthly Changes by main Groups of Market Basket**

Major Group*	Index Number			Monthly Changes of the Expenditure Values(Rs.)			Monthly Changes of the Index (%)		
	Aug 2018	July 2019	Aug 2019	Aug 2018	July 2019	Aug 2019	Aug 2018	July 2019	Aug 2019
All Items	125.8	130.0	130.1	-30.53	-144.20	47.94	-0.04	-0.18	0.06
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	135.9	133.5	132.1	-181.88	-169.55	-232.42	-0.24	-0.22	-0.30
Non Food	121.8	128.6	129.3	151.35	25.35	280.35	0.20	0.03	0.36
Clothing and Footwear	135.3	145.9	147.2	5.95	11.05	16.94	0.01	0.01	0.02
Transport	109.6	113.5	117.2	116.81	-7.71	240.66	0.15	-0.01	0.31
Recreation and Culture	112.6	116.6	118.7	0.00	0.00	16.66	0.00	0.00	0.02
Other	123.7	131.0	131.0	28.60	22.02	6.09	0.04	0.03	0.01

\*Note : There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in August 2019 were noted in four main groups, details on which are given in Table2.

## 2. Variations in Colombo Consumer Price Index

Month on month changes in the Colombo Consumer Price Index was briefly described below.

### 2.1 Month on Month (M on M) Change of CCPI:

The CCPI for all items for the month of August 2019 was 130.1 and it records an increase of 0.1 index points that is 0.06 percentage points compared to the month of July 2019 for which the index was 130.0. This represents an increase of expenditure value by Rs.47.94 in the "Market Basket".

#### 2.1.1 Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the change in CCPI from July 2019 to August 2019 were given in Table 2. Increase in the index point by 0.06% was due to the expenditure value decreases of Food items by -0.30% and increases of Non Food items by 0.36% respectively.

#### 2.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: -0.30%

As shown in Table 02, decreases in value change were reported for Vegetables (0.13%), Green Chilies (0.07%), Red Onions (0.04%), Sea Fish (0.04%), Rice (0.03%), Chicken (0.03%), Coconuts (0.01%) and Tea dust/leaves (0.01%).

While increases in value change were reported for Banana (0.05%), Potatoes (0.03%), Eggs (0.02%) and Big Onions (0.01%).

#### 2.1.3 Contribution of Non Food items: 0.36%

Among Non-Food groups, increases in value change were reported for 'Transport (0.31%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.02%) and 'Recreation and Culture' (0.02%).

However, an insignificant value change in expenditure value was reported for the groups of 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics', 'Health', 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' and all other groups remain unchanged during the month.

**Table 2: Contribution to the change in CCPI from July 2019 to August 2019 (Base 2013=100)**

Sub Group/Commodity		Value Change			
		Rs.Cts.	% change		
			Increase	Decrease	Net effect
<b>Food</b>		<b>-232.42</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>-0.30</b>
1	Rice	-27.29		0.03	
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu - red)</i>	8.67	0.01		
	<i>Rice - (Samba)</i>	-36.36		0.05	
2	Chicken	-21.52		0.03	
3	Sea Fish	-29.40		0.04	
4	Eggs	12.59	0.02		
5	Coconuts	-11.68		0.01	
6	Banana	35.74	0.05		
7	Vegetables	-98.85		0.13	
8	Potatoes	26.73	0.03		
9	Red onions	-28.04		0.04	
10	Big Onions	9.40	0.01		
11	Green chilies	-56.37		0.07	
12	Tea dust/ leaves	-5.11		0.01	
13	Others	-38.59		0.05	
	<b>Non Food</b>	<b>280.35</b>	<b>0.36</b>		<b>0.36</b>
14	Clothing & Footwear	16.94	0.02		
15	Transport	240.66	0.31		
	<i>Petrol and other fuel</i>	-17.45		0.02	
	<i>Air lines</i>	258.11	0.33		
16	Recreation and Culture	16.66	0.02		
	<i>News papers</i>	16.66	0.02		
17	Others	6.09	0.01		
	<b>All Items</b>	<b>47.94</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.06</b>

\*sum of items do not tally with overall sum due to rounding off.

### 3. INFLATION:

The CCPI is an economic indicator constructed to measure inflation which is defined as percentage change in CCPI over the year. There are two measures of inflation in general use. One measure is Year on Year base or Point to Point inflation (The percentage change in the CPI during the last 12 months). The other measure is Moving Average Inflation (The percentage difference between the average Price Index of last 12 months & the average Price Index of previous 12 months).

**Table 3: Movements of the CCPI (Base: 2013=100)**

Year	Month	Index Number	All Item			Food			Non Food		
			% Change Month to Month	Inflation %		% Change Month to Month	Inflation %		% Change Month to Month	Inflation %	
				Y on Y	12 Months Moving Avg.		Y on Y	12 Months Moving Avg.		Y on Y	12 Months Moving Avg.
2018	August	125.8	0.0	5.9	5.6	-0.8	7.5	7.8	0.3	5.1	4.6
	September	124.9	-0.7	4.3	5.4	-3.4	2.3	7.1	0.5	5.3	4.6
	October	124.6	-0.2	3.1	5.0	-0.2	-2.3	5.9	0.5	5.5	4.6
	November	126.2	1.3	3.3	4.6	3.0	-1.0	4.6	0.6	5.2	4.6
	December	126.3	0.1	2.8	4.3	0.8	-1.5	3.3	-0.3	4.7	4.6
2019	January	127.4	0.9	3.7	4.1	-2.5	-2.1	2.3	2.4	6.3	4.9
	February	126.8	-0.5	4.0	4.1	-2.1	-1.4	1.7	0.2	6.4	5.1
	March	126.6	-0.2	4.3	4.1	-1.6	-1.4	1.2	0.4	6.7	5.3
	April	127.0	0.3	4.5	4.1	0.1	-0.9	0.9	0.4	6.8	5.6
	May	129.0	1.6	5.0	4.2	4.4	0.8	0.7	0.5	6.8	5.8
	June	130.2	0.9	3.8	4.2	2.6	-1.0	0.3	0.3	6.0	5.9
	July	130.0	-0.2	3.3	4.0	-0.7	-2.6	-0.3	0.0	5.9	5.9
August	130.1	0.1	3.4	3.8	-1.0	-2.8	-1.2	0.5	6.2	6.0	

#### 3.1 Year on Year (YoY) Inflation

The YoY inflation as measured by CCPI is 3.4% in August 2019 and inflation calculated for July 2019 was 3.3% (Table 3). YoY inflation of Food Group has decreased from -2.6% in July 2019 to -2.8% in August 2019 while that of Non-food Group has increased from 5.9% in July 2019 to 6.2% in August 2019.

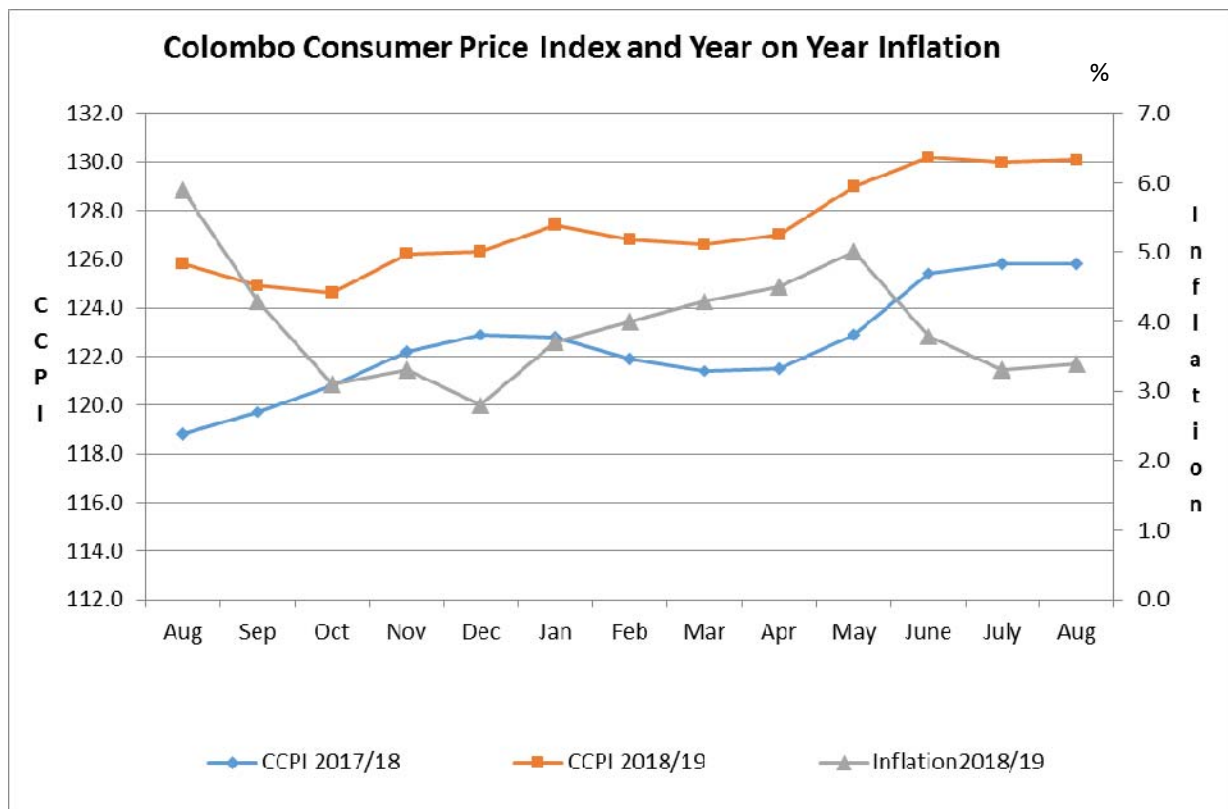
### 3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of August 2019, on year-to-year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was -0.85%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 4.30%. This was mainly due to increases in value change in groups of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (1.09%), 'Education' (1.0%), 'Health' (0.78%), 'Transport' (0.65%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.25%), 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.18%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.22%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.17%), 'Furnishing Household Equipment's & Routine Household Maintenance' (0.15%) and 'Recreation and Culture' (0.06%) and decrease in value change was reported for the group 'Communication' (0.25%).

### 3.3 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation rate for the month of August 2019 was 3.8%. The corresponding rate for the month of July 2019 was 4.0%.



**Table 4 : Monthly average open market retail prices of selected items of Colombo Consumer Price Index (Aug, July 2019 & Aug 2018)**

Item	Unit	Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)			Retail Price Changes (%)	
		2018 Aug	2019 July	2019 Aug	Aug18/ Aug19	Aug 19 / July19
1. Rice– Kekulu – Red	Kg	79.50	78.40	79.72	0.28	1.68
2. Rice– Kekulu – White	Kg	80.52	86.04	86.38	7.29	0.40
3. Rice –Nadu - White	Kg	84.85	89.85	89.96	6.03	0.12
4. Rice –Nadu - Red	Kg	94.90	91.11	89.39	-5.81	-1.89
5. Rice– Samba	Kg	109.30	97.41	94.45	-13.58	-3.03
6. Cowpea	Kg	276.00	289.47	290.32	5.19	0.29
7.Green Grams	Kg	245.32	280.35	279.01	13.73	-0.47
8. Coconut	Each	66.13	46.88	46.42	-29.81	-0.97
9. Coconut Oil	750ml	281.81	254.82	251.93	-10.61	-1.14
10.Chicken	Kg	507.78	510.62	500.61	-1.41	-1.96
11. Eggs	Each	19.33	19.20	20.18	4.40	5.08
12. Red Onion	Kg	176.27	225.78	179.06	1.58	-20.69
13. Big Onion	Kg	110.40	121.05	124.63	12.89	2.96
14. Potatoes	Kg	149.34	179.54	190.52	27.57	6.11
15. Garlic	Kg	242.43	386.06	381.62	57.41	-1.15
16. Dried Chilies	Kg	308.83	355.36	364.62	18.07	2.61
17. Green Chilies	Kg	757.57	625.37	413.65	-45.40	-33.86
18. Sugar	Kg	104.43	106.19	107.01	2.48	0.78
19. Pepper	Kg	1523.39	1435.05	1387.26	-8.94	-3.33
<b>Vegetables-</b>						
20. Ash Plantain	Kg	155.56	148.70	146.16	-6.04	-1.71
21. Carrot	Kg	294.32	193.94	168.54	-42.73	-13.09
22. Snake Gourd	Kg	186.28	165.63	156.61	-15.93	-5.44
23. Tomatoes	Kg	188.16	118.65	141.75	-24.66	19.48
24. Capsicum	Kg	377.76	293.53	247.79	-34.40	-15.58
25. Beetroot	Kg	234.56	153.22	139.80	-40.40	-8.76
26. Beans	Kg	341.51	228.22	233.55	-31.61	2.34
<b>Fruits</b>						
27. Banana	Kg	140.84	152.28	161.74	6.21	14.84
28. Papaw	Kg	121.08	121.63	121.99	0.75	0.29
29. Mangoes	Each	68.08	77.36	81.66	19.94	5.55
<b>Fresh Fish –</b>						
30. Seer	Kg	1706.32	1846.44	1871.51	9.68	1.36
31.Talapath	Kg	1144.97	1204.59	1220.00	6.55	1.28
32.Paraw	Kg	1157.07	1088.76	1135.16	-1.89	4.26
<b>Dried Fish -</b>						
33.Katta	Kg	1326.42	1474.61	1461.02	10.15	-0.92
34. Sprats	Kg	765.31	748.39	749.84	-2.02	0.19
<b>Fuel -</b>						
35. Kerosene Oil	Lt	70.00	70.00	70.00	0.00	0.00
36 .Petrol (CPC & IOC)	Lt	145.00	141.61	140.39	-3.18	-0.86
37. Diesel (CPC & IOC)	Lt	118.00	104.00	104.00	-11.86	0.00
38. Gas- Avg.	12.5kg	1538.00	1733.00	1733.00	12.68	0.00
Litro	12.5kg	1538.00	1733.00	1733.00	12.68	0.00
Laughs	12.5kg	1538.00	1733.00	1733.00	12.68	0.00